

REMARKS

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for four (4) excess independent claims.

Claims 1-26 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 20-26 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Objection was made to claims 3-6, 8-10, 14-18, 20, 23 and 26 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, with the indication that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been amended as appropriate so as to no longer be dependent from rejected claims. Consequently, claims 3-6, 8-10, 14-18, 20, 23 and 26 are allowable

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11-13, 19, 21-22, and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thuringer, et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,199,763. This rejection is traversed.

Each of claims 1, 2, 7, 11-13, 19, 21-22, and 24-25 includes, either directly or through a parent claim, switching to the terminal mode in response to elapsing of a predetermined period of time. This is neither shown nor suggested by the references. Accordingly, these claims are allowable.

Further as to claim 21, prior to the present Amendment, claim 21 was erroneously indicated to be dependent from claim 12. That this was erroneous was evident, since dependency from claim 12 would result in a lack of antecedent for the clock counter. By the above amendments, the dependency of claim 21 is corrected to allowable claim 14, thus making claim 21 allowable for this additional reason.

Further as to claims 22, 24, and 25, each of these claims recites that the signals

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supplied to the connection terminals include a reset signal, and that the mode selecting circuit switches to the terminal mode in response to the reset signal being applied to a connection terminal.

Thuringer, et al. discloses a reset signal, but at column 6, lines 10-14 states:

“The contact array 15 further has a fifth transmission contact 20 which serves for receiving a reset signal (RST). Since the use and effect of such a reset signal is not relevant in the present context this is not discussed any further with reference to FIG. 1.” [Emphasis added.]

Thus, although Thuringer, et al. does disclose a reset signal, Thuringer, et al. does not show or suggest the subject matter of claim 22, 24, or 25. Accordingly, these claims are allowable for this additional reason.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-26, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

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extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account
No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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